(v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action;

(vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents;

(vii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up;

Import of coal

†1034. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal reserves in the country;

(b) the quantity of coal that has been mined from these reserves;

(c) whether it is a fact that coal is being imported despite coal reserves in abundance; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government for increasing the mining capacity of coal companies so that the country achieves self-sufficiency in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b)As per the estimates of Geological Survey of India (GSI), as on 1.1.2007 a total of 255.17 billion tonnes of geological resources of coal has so far been estimated in India. The total coal extracted from the coalfields of India since 1950 upto 2004-05 is around 8.02 billion tonnes (Source: Coal Controllers' Organization).

(c) and (d) Despite coal reserves in abundance in our country, the fact remains that the techno-commercially exploitable reserves pertaining to good quality coking coal and low ash thermal coal are scarce and hence, indigenous production of these types of coal is not able to keep pace with their burgeoning demand. Thus these types of coal are required to be imported to meet the additional surge in such demand. Following steps

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

have been taken to augment mining capacity in Coal Companies towards achieving self sufficiency:

1. Exploration capacity to prove more coal reserves is being expanded.
2. Faster allocation of more blocks for captive mining.
3. Speedy approval of projects.
4. Increased application of continous miner and longwall technology in underground mining.
5. Emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production from existing mines/projects.
6. Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.
7. Increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.

Opening of new coal mines

1035. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open new coal mines in various parts of the country to increase coal production;

(b) whether Government also propose to hand over certain new cola mines to the private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and company-wise; and

(d) the total investment required for the purpose and the time by which new coal mines are likely to commence production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. 97 new/expansion coal projects with a capacity of 241 million tonnes per year in Coal India Limited (CIL) and 41 projects with a capacity of 38 million tonnes per year in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been identified to be taken up during the Tenth Five Year Plan period to increase coal production. In addition to this, Coal India Limited has also identified 16 existing projects for increasing coal production to the tune of 71.3 million tonnes per year under Emergency Coal Production Plan (ECPP).

(b) No, Sir.